

November 1, 2002

Simpson/Tutor/Saliba
124580 Highway 101, South
Orick, California

Notice of Proposed No Further Action related to petroleum discharges.
Comment Period ends December 1, 2002

Site History: Site is located along Highway 101, South approximately 5 miles north of the town of Orick, California. Tutor-Saliba-Perini (TSP) leased the site for their heavy equipment storage, maintenance and refueling operations. TSP maintained nine aboveground storage tanks at the site: four 5,000-gallon diesel fuel tanks, four 1,000-gallon gasoline tanks and one 2,000-gallon waste oil tank.

Site Investigations

Initial (July 1990): Soil samples were collected from depths ranging from 1 to 7 feet. in July 1990. Results indicated Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons as diesel (TPHD) present in soil ranging from 3,900 ug/g near the surface to 5.3 ug/g at a depth of 7 feet. TSP collected additional soil samples from the surface. The results for TPHD ranged from 140 to 4,600 ug/g. Twelve shallow groundwater monitoring wells were installed. The method of construction was not known, however, Dames and Moore understood that the well casing was placed in holes excavated using a backhoe. Apparently groundwater samples collected from the wells did not contain detectable concentrations of TPHD.

Second Round (September- November 1990): TSP contracted with Dames and Moore of Santa Rosa, California to conduct a Phase I Preliminary Site Assessment and a Phase II Soils Investigation in the September-November 1990 time period. Soil samples collected in the vicinity of the gasoline storage tanks (Pits A, B, C and D) were analyzed for TPHD and TPHG. Soil samples collected from the vicinity of the waste oil storage tank and the equipment storage area (Pits I, J, L, M, N, O, Q, R, S, T and X) were analyzed for TPH-D and waste oil (Method 418.1). The areas identified as having high levels of TPH-D (greater than 100 mg/kg) were Pits B, G, J K and I. The areas identified as having high levels of waste oil contamination were Pits J, L and R. The only location identified as having gasoline contamination in the soil was at Pit B (27 mg/kg). Approximately 425 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated from five areas (B, G, I, J, L and R) identified as having diesel or waste oil concentrations of greater than 100 mg/kg in soil.

Bioremediation of the excavated and stockpiled soils was initiated in April 1991, and continued through November 1991. Batches of soil differing in date of excavation as well as origin were treated separately. In the main "diesel tank" soil pile TPHD concentrations decreased from a maximum of 277 parts per million (ppm) to below the detection limit (<5 ppm). In the "waste oil tank" soil pile TPHD concentrations were reduced to values below the detection limit.

Monitoring Well Installation (August 1992): Monitoring wells MW-A, MW-B, MW-C and MW-D were installed between August 18 and 19, 1992. Contaminant detections occurred only in MW-C, located northwest of the sheet metal building and in MW-D located at the southeast and downgradient end of the site. The sample from MW-C showed toluene at a concentration of 0.98 parts per billion (ppb), while the sample from MW-D showed TPH as diesel concentration of 53 ppb. Benzene, ethylbenzene, xylenes TPH as gasoline and Total Oil and Grease were not detected. Analytical results of soil samples were non-detect for all constituents with the exception of the sample from MW-A, where TPH as diesel was detected at a concentration of 8.8 ppm.

Third Round (September –October 1997): Exploratory excavations were performed in September and October of 1997 to locate areas previously identified as being hydrocarbon impacted. Those areas were B, I-J, K and L. Work was suspended with the onset of winter weather that resulted in the trenches filled with rainwater and remained full for extended periods.

Fourth Round (August- November 1998) Three additional trenches were excavated in Area B. Only one of five soil samples registered over the 100 ppm TPH-IR target level. Sample B-10A from Trench B10 indicated 400 ppm TPH-IR. In Area I-J four locations out of 14 total locations were identified for further investigation. Five exploratory trenches were excavated in Area K. Results of analyses of five soil samples collected from these trenches indicated non-detect (< 50 ppm) TPH-IR levels. Three additional trenches (L8, L9 and L10) were excavated in Area L.

Fifth Round (June- November 2000) Further investigation was conducted in Areas B, I-J and L. Area B has had only one sample point which tested above the threshold (TPH 100 ppm) limit. This area has been extensively investigated without the discovery of a contaminant source or plume. Investigation of Area I-J consisted of collecting composite samples from locations previously identified as TPH concentrations above 200 ppm. All samples tested non-detectable for gasoline. All samples tested non-detectable for motor oil. All samples tested positive for diesel with a high concentration of 3.1 ppm. Only one sample tested positive for diesel after the Silica Gel clean up and this was not believed to have originated from a fuel or lubricant. The low levels of TPH found in the area were attributed to surface fill debris (wood, etc.) or asphalt fill which is common to the entire site.

Groundwater Monitoring Program: Four groundwater monitoring wells were installed in August 1992 (MW-A, MW-B, MW-C and MW-D). MW-A was deleted from the monitoring and reporting programs in June 1994. The analyses for metals, PCP and TCP were discontinued in August 1995. MW-B and MW-C were deleted from monitoring and reporting programs in August 1995. MW-D exhibited low levels of hydrocarbons from 1993 to 1999. This well was the only monitoring well on-site to experience positive results. Surface runoff from the site goes directly by this monitoring well. From August 1995, only MW-D was required to be sampled, on a semi-annual basis, for TPH-diesel,

TPH-gasoline and BTEX. The results of the last three sampling rounds (2nd Half 1999, 1st Half 2000 and 2nd Half 2000) were non-detected for chemicals of concern.

Summary of Groundwater Investigation: The results of ten years of site investigation and groundwater monitoring identified low level petroleum hydrocarbons contamination in MW-D. For the past three testing periods there has been no detection of contaminants. A request for closure of MW-B, MW-C and MW-D was granted in a February 2002 approval letter.

Conclusion: Major sources in the soil have been remediated. The only monitoring well to show any contamination over the last 10 years of groundwater monitoring has been MW-D. For the last year and a half, no contaminants have been detected in monitoring well MW-D. MW-D was the furthest downgradient monitoring well at the site.

Related documents and file information are available for review until the thirty days from date of website posting. Please contact Ron Allen (aller@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov) with any questions.

Unless additional comments are received with significant new information, the Regional Water Board staff plans to concur with no further action upon close of the comment period.